

## **2012 YOAB Survey on Youth Issues and Needs**

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**Prepared for:**  
**City of Boulder Youth Opportunities Advisory Board**

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## **Key Findings**

The City of Boulder Youth Opportunities Advisory Board (YOAB) developed a questionnaire in order to identify the issues and needs of greatest importance to middle school and high schools students in Boulder. There were two data collection efforts. The questionnaire was initially mailed in the summer of 2012 to a random sample of 4,000 home addresses of Boulder Valley School District (BVSD) middle and high school students who were enrolled in the 2011-12 school year and attended schools located in Boulder. A total of 506 questionnaires were completed and returned. Because of the small number of Latino respondents, the questionnaire was distributed to a targeted sample of Latino students who attended City of Boulder BVSD middle and high schools. This second data collection yielded 97 respondents. The findings for the random and targeted samples are presented separately in this report due to differences in sampling methodologies.

### **Random sample**

- The issue most frequently rated as needing “lots more attention” and among the top three priorities, regardless of school level, gender, or race/ethnicity, was job opportunities for teens.
- School-related stress was mentioned by nearly half of high school students and more than a third of middle school students as an issue needing “lots more attention”. It was the second most frequent top-three priority among high school students and was also among the most frequent top-three priorities among middle school students.
- Alcohol/drug use was mentioned as an issue needing “lots more attention” by 1 in 4 middle and high school students and was among the most frequent top-three priorities in both groups.
- Bullying was mentioned as an issue needing “lots more attention” by more than 1 in 4 middle school students and was among their most frequent top-three priorities. High school students gave this issue lower priority.
- The findings in the 2011 YRBS survey of BVSD middle and high school students on topics that were related to the YOAB survey – bullying, mental health issues, and youth alcohol/drug use -- were consistent with and supported the YOAB findings.
- Three-quarters of respondents indicated that they would use an on-line youth space that included such items as events listings, resource information, and volunteer opportunities.
- The most common aspects about living in Boulder that respondents liked best were the large number of activities and opportunities for youth, the outdoor and sports activities, and living in a safe community.

### **Targeted Latino sample**

- The issue most frequently rated as needing “lots more attention” was job opportunities for teens.
- Other issues frequently rated as needing “lots more attention” were bullying, places for youth to meet/hang out, youth alcohol/drug use, information on how to look for jobs and how to apply for/interview for jobs, and stress caused by/at school. Safety at night, the cost of RTD bus fares, and various forms of disrespect were also frequently indicated.
- The issues most frequently indicated by students as top-three priorities were transportation, health, bullying, life after school, and job opportunities for teens.

- The findings in the 2011 YRBS survey of BVSD middle and high school students on topics that were related to the YOAB survey – bullying and disrespect, mental health issues, youth alcohol/drug use, and safety --were consistent with and supported the YOAB findings.
- Nearly 60% of respondents indicated that they would use an on-line youth space that included such items as events listings, resource information, and volunteer opportunities.
- The most common aspects about living in Boulder that respondents liked best were the large number of activities and opportunities for youth, the people in and friendliness of the community, and good schools and educational opportunities.

## Study Purpose

The City of Boulder Youth Opportunities Advisory Board (YOAB) developed a questionnaire in order to identify the issues and needs of greatest importance to middle school and high schools students in Boulder. The questionnaire asked about 48 issues/needs in nine categories:

- Activities
- Social
- Health
- Work/Service
- Artistic Expression
- Environment
- Transportation
- Life After High School
- Budgeting/Time Management/Project Planning

## How the Data Were Collected

There were two data collection efforts. The questionnaire was initially mailed in the summer of 2012 to a random sample of 4,000 home addresses of Boulder Valley School District (BVSD) middle and high school students who were enrolled in the 2011-12 school year. The sample was selected from all public middle schools and high schools located in the City of Boulder, including charter and alternative schools and the district's on-line middle/high school, although the students did not necessarily live in Boulder. The BVSD Department of Planning and Assessment provided the student sample. As an incentive to participate, the opportunity to win a cash card in a drawing was offered to those who completed the questionnaire.

A total of 506 questionnaires were completed and returned, for a response rate of 12.7%. Table 1 shows the demographic characteristics of survey respondents and all students enrolled in BVSD middle schools and high schools in the City of Boulder. Gender and school level were very similar between survey respondents and enrolled students. However, compared to percentages of enrolled students, the survey was completed by a higher percentage of white non-Latinos and a lower percentage of Latinos. Statistical tests determined that the overrepresentation of white non-Latinos and underrepresentation of Latinos among survey respondents were not great enough to affect the overall results.

**Table 1. Demographic characteristics of survey respondents and students enrolled in BVSD/City of Boulder middle schools and high schools**

	Survey respondents	Students enrolled in BVSD/City of Boulder middle schools and high schools, Oct. 2011
<b>Race/ethnicity</b>		
White non-Latino	84.4%	72.6%
Latino (any race)	6.7%	15.3%
Asian	4.8%	6.2%
Other, 2 or more races	4.0%	5.9%
<b>Gender</b>		
Females	54.3%	50.3%
Males	45.7%	49.7%
<b>School level</b>		
Middle school	42.9%	39.9%
High school	57.1%	60.1%

Source, BVSD data: Colorado Department of Education, 2011 Pupil Enrollment by School, Grade, Race/Ethnicity and Gender, [www.cde.state.co.us](http://www.cde.state.co.us).

The small number of Latino respondents – 33 -- limited separate analysis of that group of students. As a result, the questionnaire was distributed to a targeted sample of Latino students who attended City of Boulder BVSD middle and high schools and had not completed the first survey. This second data collection yielded 97 respondents.

Responses from the random and targeted samples are presented separately in this report because results from the random sample are generalizable to the entire population of City of Boulder BVSD middle and high school students (plus or minus errors due to random sampling), while results from the targeted sample represent only students who completed the survey and cannot be generalized to a larger population.<sup>1</sup>

## Study Limitations

### **Random sample**

- The response rate of 12.7% increases the chance of bias in the results, since the 87.3% of students who did not respond may be different from those who did respond in ways that affected their responses. This possibility cannot be measured. However, the demographic similarity between the respondents and the population of enrolled students increases confidence in the results.

### **Targeted Latino sample**

- The results of the targeted sample are not generalizable to a population of youth beyond those who completed the survey.
- A relatively large number of respondents in the targeted sample, nearly 20%, did not answer the question on gender (Table 2).<sup>2</sup> This limitation did not apply to the random sample.<sup>3</sup>

**Table 2. Demographic characteristics and missing values, targeted sample of Latino students**

	Number	%
Total	97	100%
<b>Gender</b>		
Females	50	51.5%
Males	28	28.9%
Missing values	19	19.6%
<b>School level</b>		
Middle school	59	60.8%
High school	38	39.2%

<sup>1</sup> The results of the targeted Latino sample are also summarized in a separate report.

<sup>2</sup> The same was initially true of school level; 17.5% of the 97 respondents did not answer that question. However, YOAB was able to obtain the missing information on school level at a later date.

<sup>3</sup> In the random sample, only 21 of 506 respondents (4.2%) did not respond to the question on school level and 29 (5.7%) did not respond to the question on gender.

## Issues Needing “Lots More Attention”

### **Random sample**

The issues most frequently rated as needing “lots more attention”, regardless of school level, gender, or race/ethnicity, were (Figures RS-1 and RS-2 and Appendix Table RS-A-1):

- Job opportunities for teens: 47.1% of middle school students, 61.6% of high school students, 55.9% of all students
- Information related to finding a job: 30.9% to 42.0% of middle school students, 42.2% to 44.2% of high school students, and 37.5% to 43.0% of all students, depending on the item
- School-related stress: 35.7% of middle school students, 45.1% of high school students, 41.2% of all students

Other findings included:

- Bullying was a more important need for middle school students (27.2%) than for high school students (12.4%) (Figures RS-1 and RS-2, Appendix Table RS-A-1).
- Jobs, opportunities for volunteering/internships, inadequate school parking, night-life opportunities, and how expensive life is for Boulder teens were more important for high school students than for middle school students (Figures RS-1 and RS-2, Appendix Table RS-A-1).
- About one-quarter of both high school and middle school students believed that youth alcohol/drug use and information on how to help depressed kids needed “lots more attention”, and one-quarter of high school students believed that youth feeling depressed/suicidal needed “lots more attention” (Figures RS-1 and RS-2).
- Females tended to rate issues as needing “lots more attention” more often than males, but for both groups, jobs and information on how to find a job were most often rated as needing “lots more attention” (Figures RS-3 and RS-4).
- All race/ethnic groups rated jobs as the issue most likely to need “lots more attention” (Figure RS-5).
  - Latino students tended to rate issues as needing “lots more attention” more often than white non-Latino and Asian students.
  - Latinos were much more likely than were white non-Latinos to rate the following issues as needing “lots more attention”: youth alcohol/drug use and bullying, followed by information on how to plan/complete a project, information on volunteering/internships, how expensive life is in Boulder, information on how to apply for jobs, and job opportunities for teens.
  - Asians were more likely than were white non-Latinos to rate the following issues as needing “lots more attention”: job opportunities, information on volunteering/internships, and bullying. Asians were less likely to rate how expensive life is in Boulder as needing “lots more attention”.

When asked if there were youth needs/issues that needed more attention other than those listed in the questionnaire, 165 students offered suggestions. By far the most frequent was “more help with mental health issues”, by 26.7% of the 165 (Table RS-1).

The issues most frequently rated as needing “no attention” among both middle and high school students were (Appendix Table RS-A-2):

- Safety walking to/from RTD bus stops and on RTD buses, by 59.1% and 58.9% of all students, respectively
- Disrespect based on gender, by 59.0% of all students
- Number of youth-oriented shopping opportunities, by 51.5% of all students
- Bus routes and schedules, by 46.5% of all students

### **Targeted Latino sample**

The issues most frequently rated as needing “lots more attention” by Latino students in the targeted sample were similar to those among Latino students in the random sample, although the ordering was not necessarily the same (Figure TLS-1):

- Job opportunities was most frequently rated as needing “lots more attention” by both groups (55.9% of targeted sample and 69.7% of random sample of Latino students).
- Other issues frequently rated as needing “lots more attention” by both groups were:
  - Bullying (53.3% of targeted sample and 45.5% of random sample of Latino students)
  - Youth alcohol/drug use (43.0% of targeted sample and 60.6% of random sample of Latino students)
  - Information on how to look for jobs (43.0% of targeted sample and 48.5% of random sample of Latino students) and on how to apply and interview for jobs (43.0% of targeted sample and 57.6% of random sample of Latino students)
  - Stress caused by/at school (43.0% of targeted sample and 42.4% of random sample of Latino students)
  - Information on how to help depressed youth (40.0% of targeted sample and 36.4% of random sample of Latino students)
  - Cost of bus passes/bus fares (39.8% of targeted sample and 33.3% of random sample of Latino students)
- The only issue for which there was a substantial difference between the two groups was “places for youth to meet/hang out”, rated as needing “lots more attention” by 44.0% of the targeted sample and only 25.0% of the random sample of Latino youth.
- There were differences in the targeted sample in issues rated as needing “lots more attention” by middle and high school students, although for both groups, job opportunities was a major priority (Figures TLS-2 and TLS-3 and Appendix Table TLS-A-1).
  - Youth alcohol/drug use was rated as needing “lots more attention” by 50.9% of middle school students compared to 31.6% of high school students.
  - Among middle school students, bullying was most frequently rated as needing “lots more attention”, by 58.2%, compared to 46.0% of high school students.
  - Places for youth to meet/hang out was rated as needing “lots more attention” by 51.4% of high school students and 39.3% of middle school students.
  - Safety at night and safety walking to/from RTD bus stops and on RTD buses were more likely to be rated as needing “lots more attention” by middle school students than by high school students.
  - Not surprisingly, issues related to post-high school options were more likely to be rated as needing “lots more attention” by high school students than by middle school students.
- The issues most frequently rated as needing “lots more attention” were similar between males and females: job opportunities, bullying, places for youth to meet/hang out, and youth alcohol/drug use (Figures TLS-4 and TLS-5).
- Thirty-one students offered suggestions of other youth issues needing attention. The most frequent was help with school, by 16.1% (Table TLS-1).

There were no issues that more than about a third of students in the targeted sample rated as needing “no attention”, indicating that most students believed that every issue needed at least some attention (Appendix Table TLS-A-2). Among both middle and high school students and the total sample, the items most likely to be rated as needing “no attention” were:

- Cost of movie tickets, by 30.1% of all students
- Safety on RTD buses and walking to/from RTD bus stops, by 29.7% and 29.4% of all students, respectively
- Disrespect based on gender, by 29.4% of all students
- High school students partying at CU/The Hill, by 29.0% of all students
- Education about environmental issues, by 28.7% of all students



- Opportunities to display art work, by 28.3% of all students

## Top Three Priorities

### **Random sample**

A somewhat different picture emerged when students were asked to choose their top three priorities out of all 48 issues listed in the questionnaire.

- As with issues needing “lots more attention”, job opportunities for teens was the most likely to be one of the top three priorities, by 19.3% of middle school students and 29.5% of high school students (Figures RS-6 and RS-7, Appendix Table RS-A-3).
- The next most frequently mentioned top three priorities, by both middle and high school students, were youth alcohol/drug use (18.3% of middle school and 13.8% of high school students) and school-related stress (14.7% of middle school and 22.8% of high school students) (Figures RS-6 and RS-7).
- In addition, bullying was frequently mentioned by middle school students (15.7%) but much less so by high school students (5.2%) (Figures RS-6 and RS-7, Appendix Table RS-A-3).
- The findings were similar for males and females. Job opportunities was the most likely to be one of the top three priorities for both groups (22.1% of males, 28.3% of females), followed by school-related stress (17.6% of males, 21.3% of females) and youth alcohol/drug use (about 15% of males and females) (Figures RS-8 and RS-9, Appendix Table RS-A-4).
- In addition, availability of affordable extracurricular activities was frequently mentioned by males (15.2%) but much less so by females (7.9%).

(There were too few Latino, Asian, and other respondents to this question to present the findings.)

### **Targeted Latino sample**

As was the case in the random sample, a somewhat different picture emerged in the targeted sample when students were asked to choose their top three priorities out of all the issues listed in the questionnaire.

- The general category of transportation (which included cost of bus passes/bus fares, bus routes/schedules, safety on RTD buses, safety walking to/from RTD bus stops, and inadequate parking at schools) was most frequently indicated as one of the top three priorities, by 31.9% of all students and 34.6% of middle school students in the targeted sample (Figures TLS-6 and TLS-7).
- Other issues frequently listed as among the top three priorities, by about one-quarter of all students and of middle school students in the targeted sample, were: bullying and the general category of health (which included negative body image, stress caused by/at school, stress outside of school, knowing how to deal with stress, youth depressed or suicidal, information on how to help depressed youth, youth sexual health, and how to access youth sexual health services).
- Life after high school was listed as among the top three priorities by almost one-quarter of all students and 45.0% of high school students in the targeted sample and job opportunities, by about 20% of all students and 20% of middle school students. Life after high school was the only topic that high school students frequently rated as a top-three priority.
- The most frequent top-three priorities among both males and females in the targeted sample were (Figures TLS-8 and TLS-9):
  - Transportation
  - Bullying
  - Life after high school
  - Job opportunities
- Health was most frequently listed by females, but not by males, as among the top three priorities. Youth alcohol/drug use was also frequently indicated by females as a top-three priority.

## **Most Frequent Suggestions for Addressing Top Three Priorities**

### **Random sample**

Suggestions for addressing the issues most frequently indicated as top-three priorities – teen job opportunities, school-related stress, youth alcohol/drug use, bullying, and affordable extracurricular activities -- are summarized in Table RS-2.

#### **Teen job opportunities**

The most frequent suggestions in the random sample involved bringing information about jobs to teens in one format or another – putting up job ads at school, bringing employers to schools, e-mails or websites of teen job listings, and teen job fairs.

#### **School-related stress**

Less homework was most frequently suggested, followed by more school-based education on and support for stress management (brochures, workshops, stress management groups, etc.).

#### **Bullying**

More education for both teens and parents and greater consequences for bullying were the most frequent suggestions.

#### **Youth alcohol/drug use**

Enforcement of existing laws and school rules on youth alcohol/drug use and more teen education on this issue were most frequently suggested.

#### **Affordable extracurricular activities**

Decreasing the price of activities and scholarships were the most frequent suggestions. In addition to those suggestions, 65 respondents also provided ideas when they answered the rating question about affordable extracurricular activities. Those ideas most commonly included scholarships, free/less expensive sports, discounted movie tickets, student discounts, and free classes (Table RS-3).

### **Targeted Latino sample**

Suggestions for addressing the issues most frequently indicated as top-three priorities in the targeted Latino sample – transportation, life after high school, health, bullying, and teen job opportunities -- are summarized in Table TLS-2.

#### **Transportation**

Reducing the cost of bus fare to school or in general and providing school bus passes were the most frequent suggestions.

#### **Life after high school**

Although life after high school was a frequent priority, there were few specific suggestions. One student suggested more information about college and another suggested help studying in preparation for college.

#### **Health**

Learning about your body and clubs or workshops about health were the most frequent suggestions.

#### **Bullying**

Talking to teens about bullying or to the bullies themselves, education on bullying prevention, and clubs/workshops about bullying were the most frequent suggestions.

#### **Teen job opportunities**

As with most of the other priorities, more information and clubs were most frequently suggested.

## How These Findings Relate to the Youth Risk Behavior Survey Findings

The most recent Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS), conducted in November 2011, asked BVSD middle school students and high school students from both school districts in Boulder County about their risk-related beliefs and behavior. The YRBS findings on topics related to the YOAB survey were consistent with and supported the YOAB findings from both the random and targeted samples.<sup>4</sup>

### **Random sample**

#### **Bullying**

- In the YOAB random sample, bullying was mentioned as an issue needing “lots more attention” by more than 1 in 4 (27.2%) middle school students and as among the top three priorities, by 15.7% of middle school students. High school students gave this issue lower priority.
- In the YRBS survey, 42.9% of BVSD middle school students reported that they had been bullied at school on at least one occasion. A lower, although still substantial, percentage of BVSD high school students -- 1 in 4 -- reported having been harassed at school in the past year.

#### **Mental health issues**

- School-related stress was mentioned in the YOAB survey by nearly half of high school students (45.1%) and more than a third of middle school students (35.7%) as an issue needing “lots more attention”. It was the second most frequent top-three priority among high school students, indicated by 22.8%. In addition, knowing how to deal with stress, information on how to help depressed kids, and among high school respondents, youth feeling depressed or suicidal were indicated by one-quarter of students as issues needing “lots more attention”.
- In the YRBS survey, 1 in 5 BVSD high school students self-harmed in the past year and 1 in 4 felt sad or hopeless nearly every day for at least two weeks in the past year. One in 8 students, both middle and high school, seriously considered attempting suicide in the past year.

#### **Youth alcohol/drug use**

- Alcohol/drug use was mentioned in the YOAB survey as an issue needing “lots more attention” by 1 in 4 middle and high school students and was among the most frequent top-three priorities in both groups.
- According to the YRBS, one-third of BVSD high school students had been offered, sold, or given an illegal drug on school property in the past year and 22.6% had attended school under the influence of alcohol or other illegal drugs in that time period.<sup>5</sup>

### **Targeted Latino sample**

The needs most frequently identified in the YOAB targeted sample that related to the YRBS were the same as in the YOAB random sample, with the addition of disrespect and safety in the random sample.

#### **Bullying and disrespect**

- Bullying was the most frequently mentioned issue needing “lots more attention” among middle school students in the targeted sample (58.2%), one of the most frequently mentioned issues among both males and females, and one of the top three priorities by almost one-quarter of all students and of middle school students. In addition, various forms of disrespect (by adults or based on sexual orientation, race/ethnicity, age, body shape/size, gender, or lack of money) were rated as issues needing “lots more attention” by a third to more than 40% of all students, males, females, and high school and middle school students in the targeted sample.

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<sup>4</sup> YRBS results for BVSD middle and high schools are presented since results for City of Boulder schools are not available.

<sup>5</sup> Those questions were not asked in the middle school YRBS.

- The 2011 YRBS found that 42.9% of BVSD middle school students had been bullied at school on at least one occasion. Latino students and white non-Latino students in that survey reported similar rates of bullying. A lower, although still substantial percentage of BVSD high school students – 1 in 4 – reported having been harassed at school in the past year, with white non-Latinos having a slightly higher rate than Latinos (26.8% compared to 20.1%). However, Latino students reported higher rates of harassment on their way to or from school than did white non-Latino students (12.7% compared to 8.7%) and of harassment because of race or ethnic origin (7.5% compared to 2.2%).

### **Mental health issues**

- School-related stress was indicated by about half of females and high school students and nearly 40% of middle school students as an issue needing “lots more attention”. In addition, how to deal with stress, how to help depressed kids, and youth feeling depressed or suicidal were indicated by nearly 40% or more of high school students and both males and females as issues needing “lots more attention”, depending on the indicator. The general category of health (which included negative body image, stress caused by/at school or outside of school, knowing how to deal with stress, youth depressed or suicidal, information on how to help depressed youth, youth sexual health, and how to access youth sexual health services) was among the top three priorities for females and middle school students.
- In the YRBS, Latino high school students reported higher rates of symptoms of depression than did white non-Latinos: self-harm in the past year (25.5% compared to 20.1%), feeling sad or hopeless nearly every day for at least two weeks in the past year (30.2% compared to 24.6%), seriously considering attempting suicide in the past year (18.7% compared to 11.5%), and attempting suicide in the past year (10.1% compared to 5.7%). The same was true of middle school students. Latino middle school students reported higher rates than did white non-Latinos of seriously considering attempting suicide (18.3% compared to 11.3%) and ever attempting suicide (6.6% compared to 1.6%).

### **Youth alcohol/drug use**

- Youth alcohol/drug use was indicated by more than half of middle school students and males and about 4 in 10 high school students and females as an issue needing “lots more attention”.
- The YRBS found that Latino high school students were substantially more likely to have been offered, sold, or given an illegal drug on school property in the past year than were white non-Latinos (43.2% compared to 30.9%).<sup>6</sup>

### **Safety**

- Safety at night was an issue identified as needing “lots more attention” by more than 4 in 10 middle school students and more than 1 in 3 females in the targeted sample, and safety walking to/from RTD bus stops and on RTD buses, by almost 4 in 10 middle school students.
- In the YRBS, Latino high school students were substantially less likely to report feeling safe in their neighborhood than were white non-Latinos (83.4% compared to 93.0%), although Latinos were not less likely to go to school in the past month because they felt unsafe (4.7% of all BVSD high school students).<sup>7</sup> The higher rates of harassment on the way to or from school and because of race or ethnic origin reported by Latino high school students than by white non-Latinos in the YRBS further support the YOAB findings.

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<sup>6</sup> That question was not asked in the middle school YRBS.

<sup>7</sup> Those questions were not asked in the middle school YRBS.

## Use of On-Line Youth Space

### **Random sample**

Three-quarters of respondents in the random sample indicated that they would use an on-line youth space that included such items as events listings, resource information, and volunteer opportunities (Figure RS-10). Higher percentages of middle school students, females, Latinos, and Asians indicated that they would use this space than did high school students, males, white non-Latinos, and others, although two-thirds or more of all groups answered “yes” to that question.

### **Targeted Latino sample**

Nearly 60% (57.7%) of all students in the targeted sample indicated that they would use on-line youth space that included such items as events listings, resource information, and volunteer opportunities (Figure TLS-10). As in the random sample, a higher percentage of females than males and of middle school students than high school students indicated that they would use the on-line space.

## Like Best About Being a Youth in Boulder

### **Random sample**

Almost all respondents answered that question, and most mentioned two or more things they liked best about living in Boulder (Table RS-4).

- The two most common were the large number of activities and opportunities for youth and the outdoor and sports activities, each of which were mentioned by about one-quarter of respondents.
- Also commonly indicated was safety and the freedom/independence that comes with living in a safe community, by 17.6%.

### **Targeted Latino sample**

Almost two-thirds of respondents answered the question about what they liked best about being a youth in Boulder (Table TLS-3).

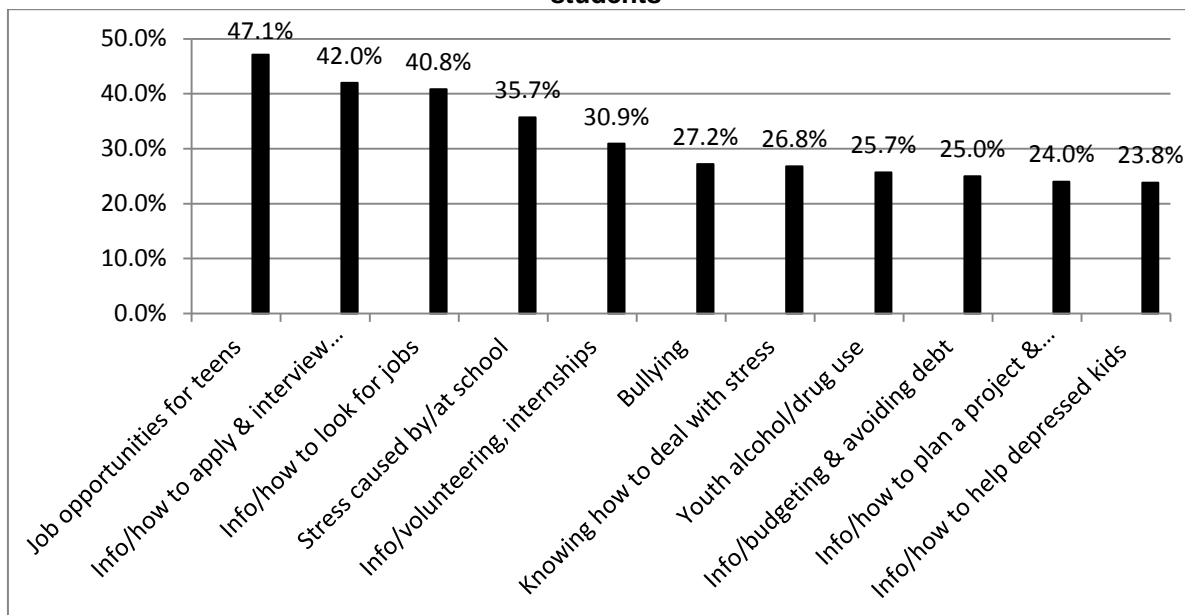
- The most common responses were the large number of activities and opportunities for youth and the people in and friendliness of the community or the community in general, each of which was indicated by 19.0% of students in the targeted sample.
- Good schools/educational opportunities was next most frequent, by 17.5% of students.

Neither outdoors activities nor safety was mentioned nearly as often in the targeted sample as in the random sample of students. In fact, safety at night was frequently indicated by middle school students and females in the targeted sample as an issue needing “lots more attention”.

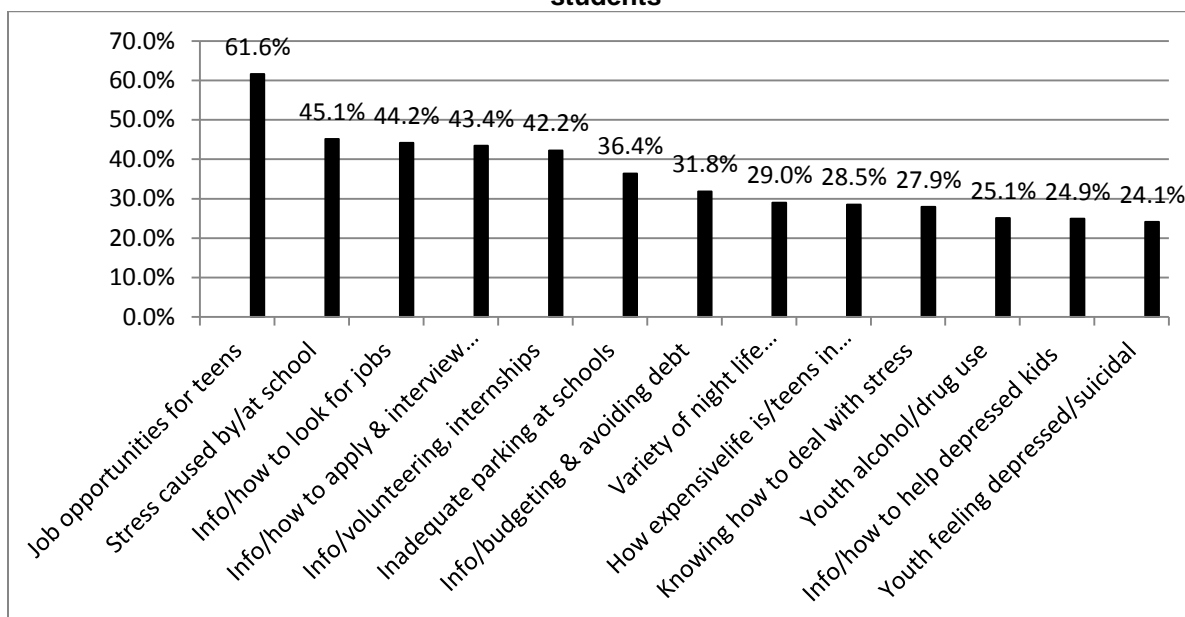
## Tables and Figures

### Random sample

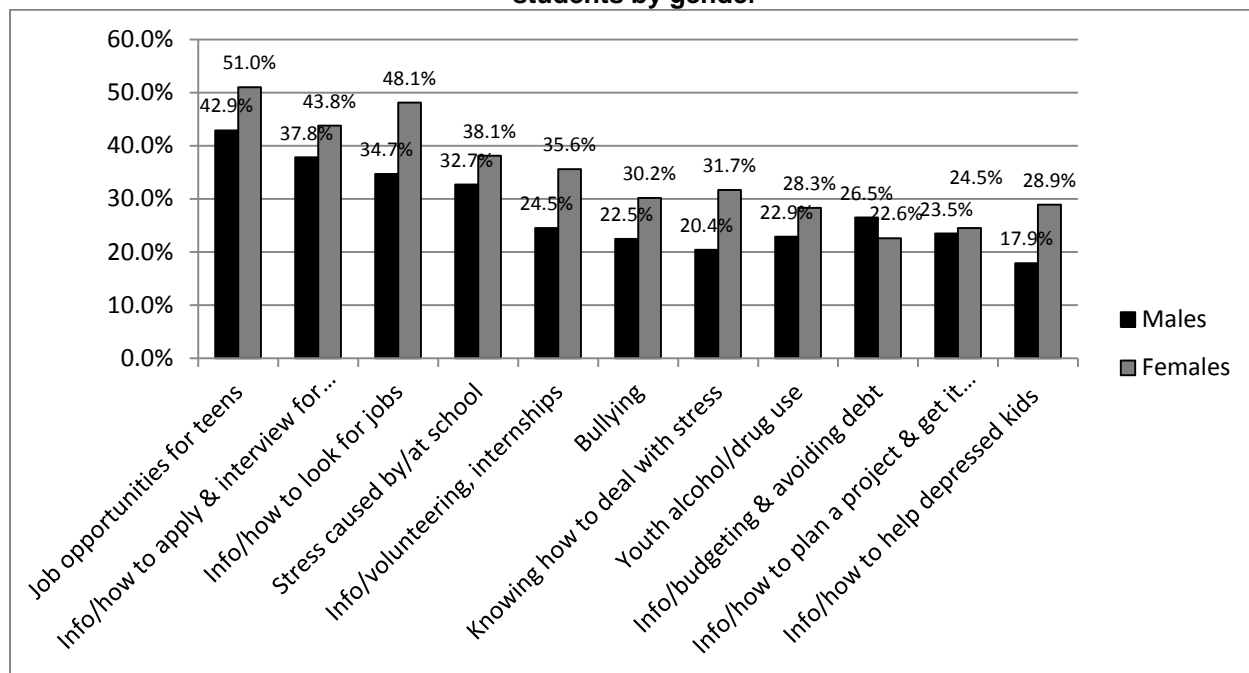
**Figure RS-1. Most frequently mentioned issues needing “lots more attention”, middle school students**



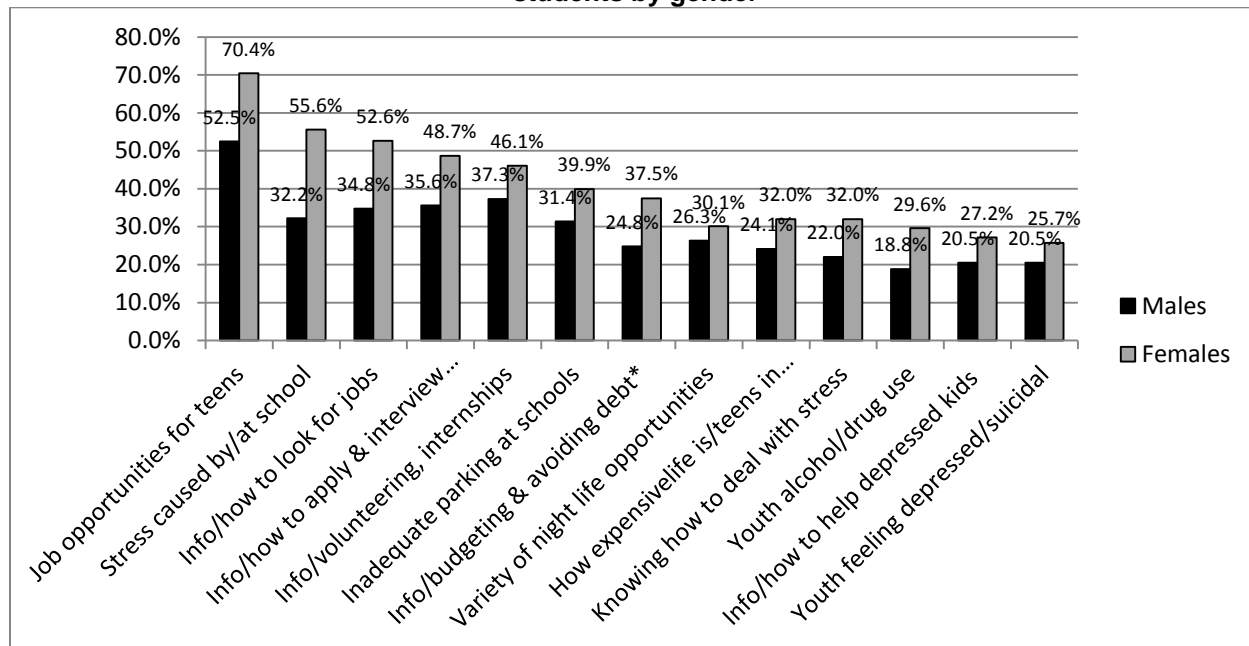
**Figure RS-2. Most frequently mentioned issues needing “lots more attention”, high school students**



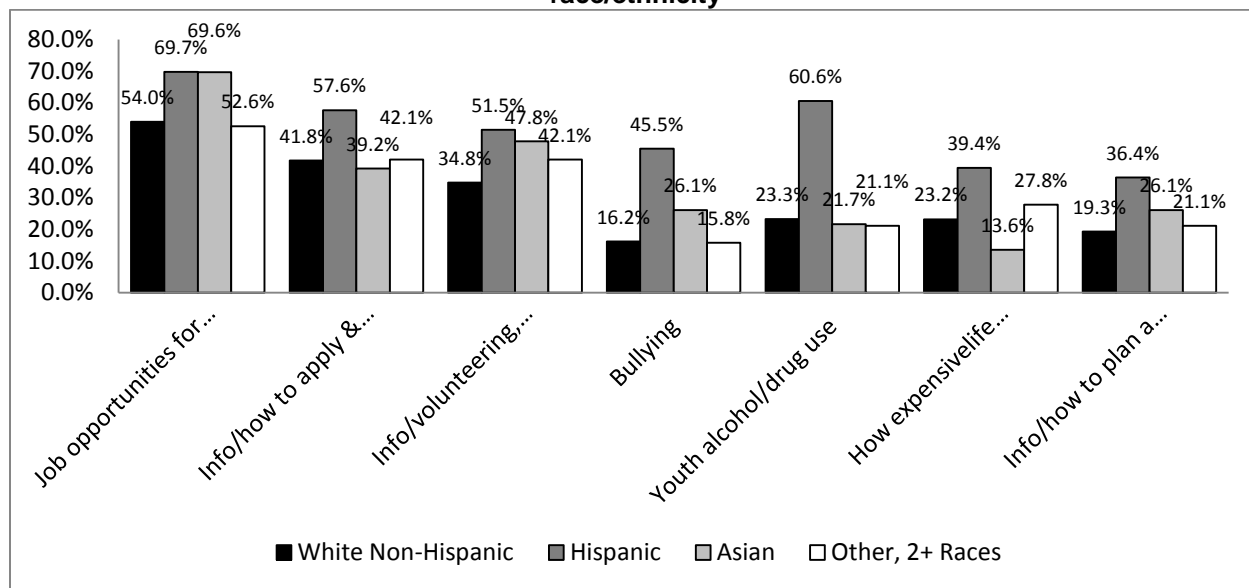
**Figure RS-3. Most frequently mentioned issues needing “lots more attention”, middle school students by gender**



**Figure RS-4. Most frequently mentioned issues needing “lots more attention”, high school students by gender**



**Figure RS-5. Most frequently mentioned issues needing “lots more attention”, all students by race/ethnicity**

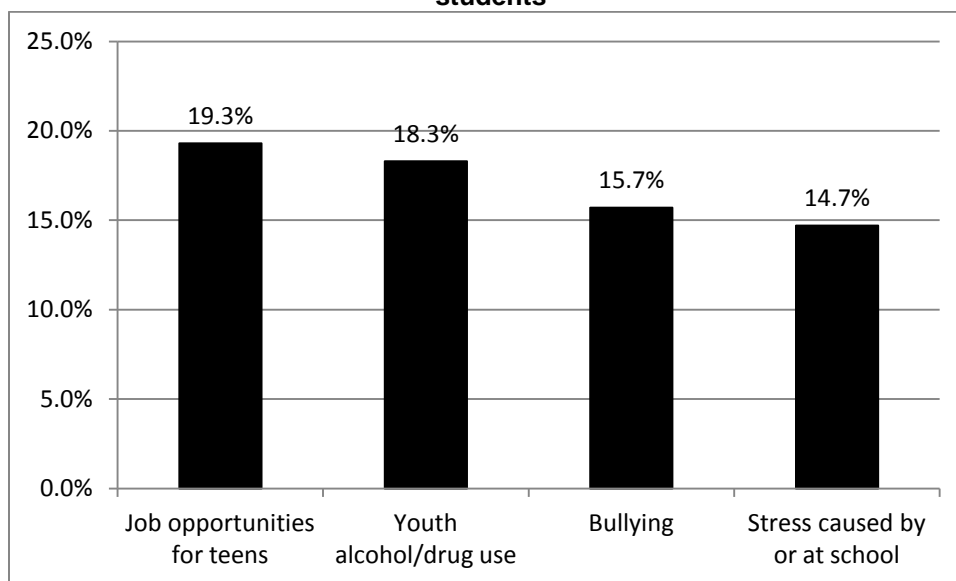


**Table RS-1. Other youth needs/issues that need more attention (most frequent responses)**

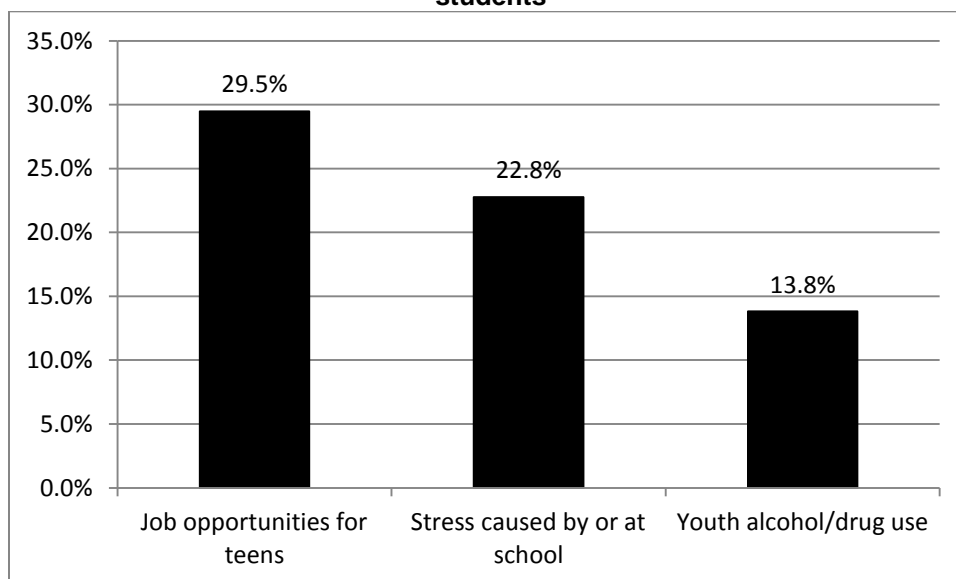
What did we miss? (165 responded)	%
More help with mental health issues	26.7%
More free/low cost teen activities	10.3%
Health & nutrition	6.1%
More & more affordable sports programs, athletic activities	5.5%
Safety, especially at night	4.2%
Teen alcohol/drug use	3.6%
Environment issues (e.g., composting)	3.0%



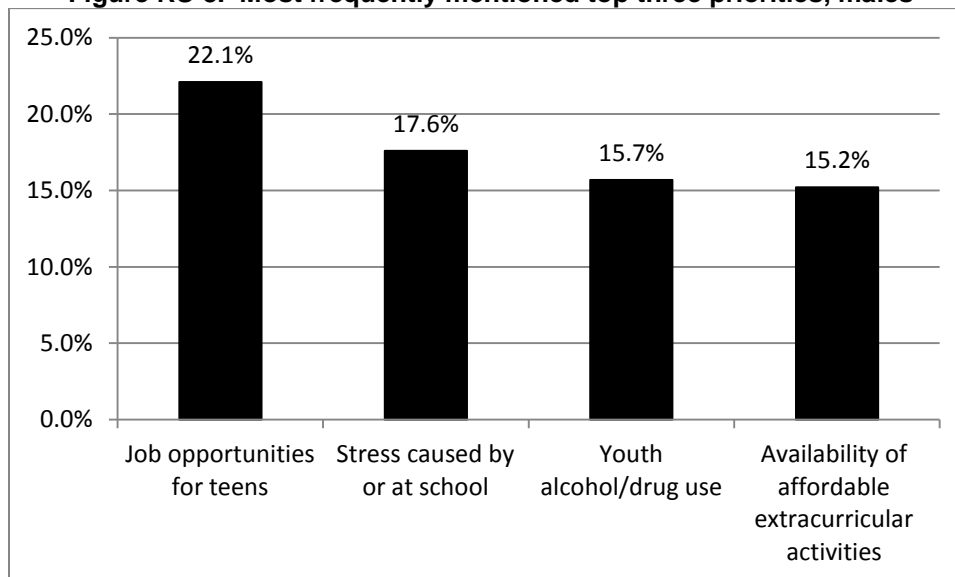
**Figure RS-6. Most frequently mentioned top three priorities, middle school students**



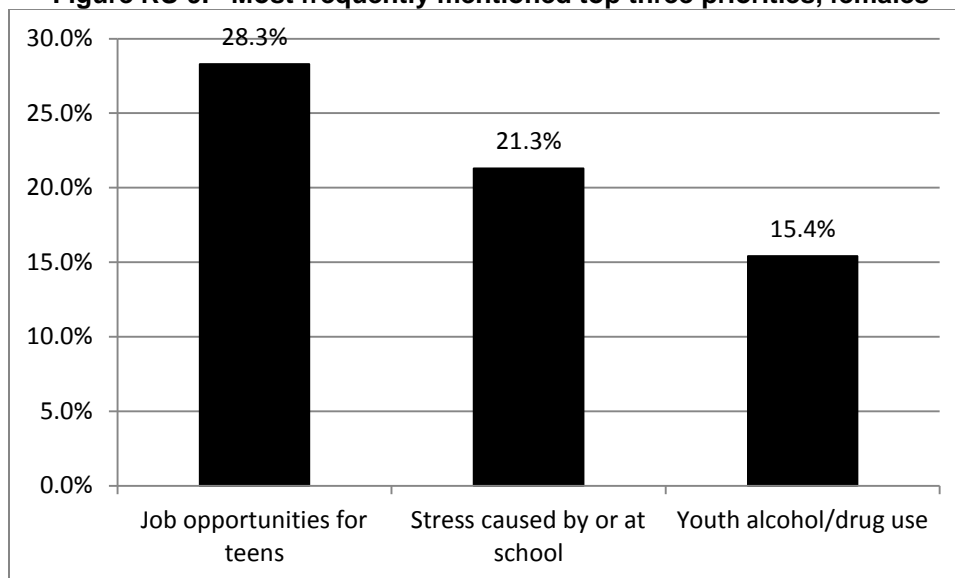
**Figure RS-7. Most frequently mentioned top three priorities, high school students**



**Figure RS-8. Most frequently mentioned top three priorities, males**



**Figure RS-9. Most frequently mentioned top three priorities, females**

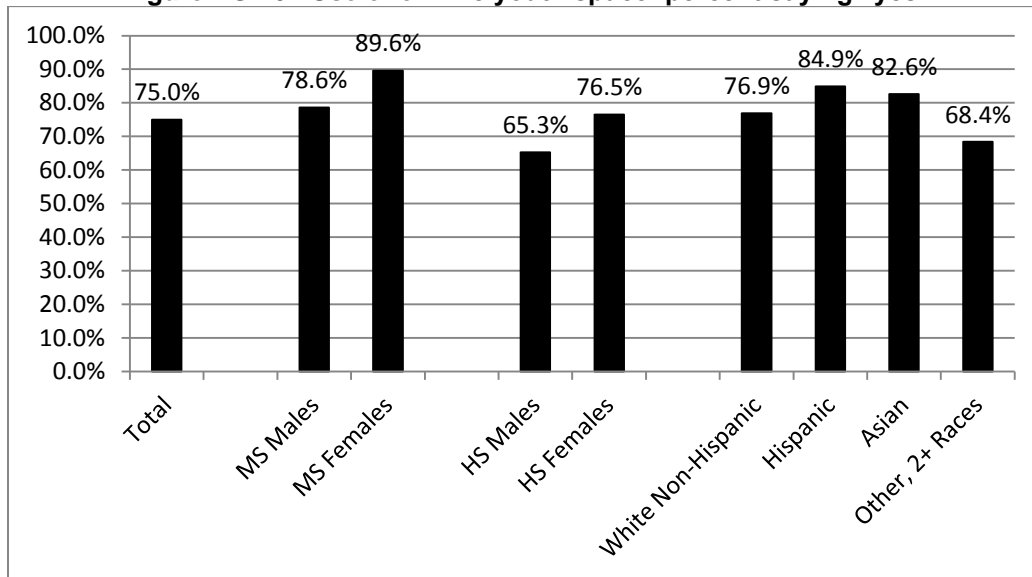


**Table RS-2. Most frequent suggestions for addressing top three priorities, all students**

	N	%
<b>Job opportunities for teens (106 responded)</b>		
Bring teens & jobs together at school (more advertising in schools, job bulletin boards in schools, bring employers to schools)	23	21.7%
E-mails or a website of listings of teen job & volunteer opportunities	17	16.0%
Teen job fairs	11	10.4%
<b>Stress caused by/at school (51 responded)</b>		
Less homework	23	45.1%
More education/support provided at school on stress management (brochures, workshops, stress management groups, incorporate into curriculum)	11	21.6%
Have a specific class at school on stress management, either mandatory or elective	6	11.8%
Greater teacher awareness of stress	3	5.9%
<b>Bullying (29 responded)</b>		
More education for teens and parents	12	41.4%
Greater consequences for bullying	6	20.7%
<b>Youth alcohol/drug use (26 responded)</b>		
Stricter enforcement of laws and school rules on alcohol/drug use	8	30.8%
More education for teens	5	19.2%
<b>Availability of affordable extracurricular activities (16 responded)</b>		
Decrease prices of activities	6	37.5%
Scholarships	5	31.3%
Student discounts	2	12.5%
Less expensive choices, free activities	2	12.5%
Activities should offer kids help	2	12.5%

**Table RS-3. Your ideas: Availability of affordable extracurricular activities**

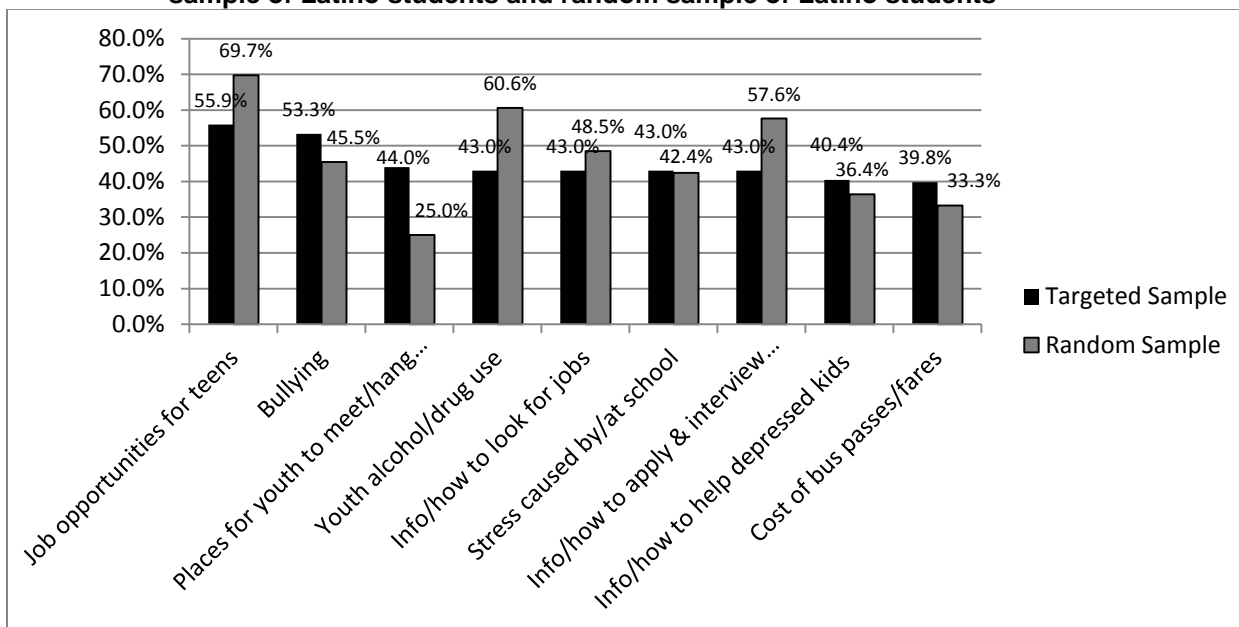
(65 responded)	N	%
Scholarships	7	10.8%
Free/less expensive sports	7	10.8%
Discounted movie tickets	4	6.2%
Student discounts	3	4.6%
Free classes	3	4.6%

**Figure RS-10. Use of on-line youth space: percent saying “yes”**

**Table RS-4. What do you like best about being a youth in Boulder?**

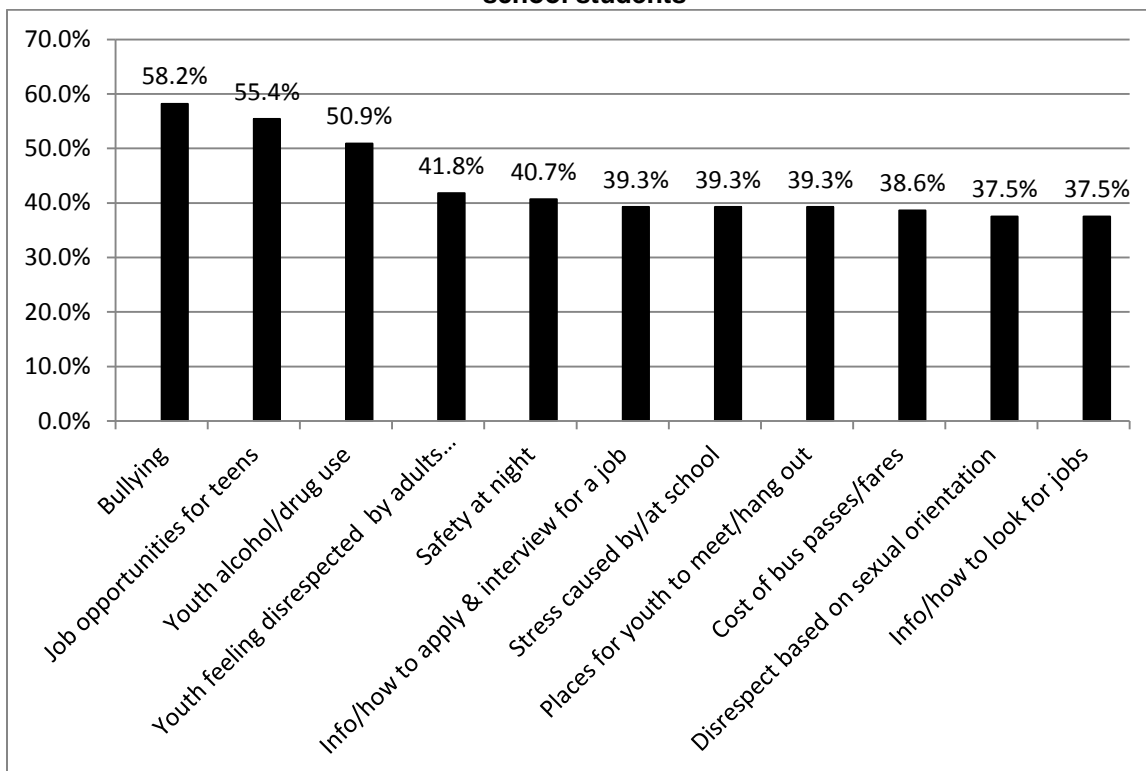
(449 responded)	%
Lots of activities, opportunities	25.6%
Outdoors activities, active lifestyle, sports	24.3%
Safety and freedom/independence	17.6%
The community, the people, friendly	11.8%
Things are accessible (biking, walking, bus)	11.1%
Friends, social life	7.3%
Good schools, education, my school	5.8%
Liberal, accepting	5.8%
Natural beauty	4.9%
Ethnic/cultural diversity	2.4%
Youth friendly, places to hang out w/friends	2.0%
Eco-conscious	1.3%

**Targeted Latino sample**

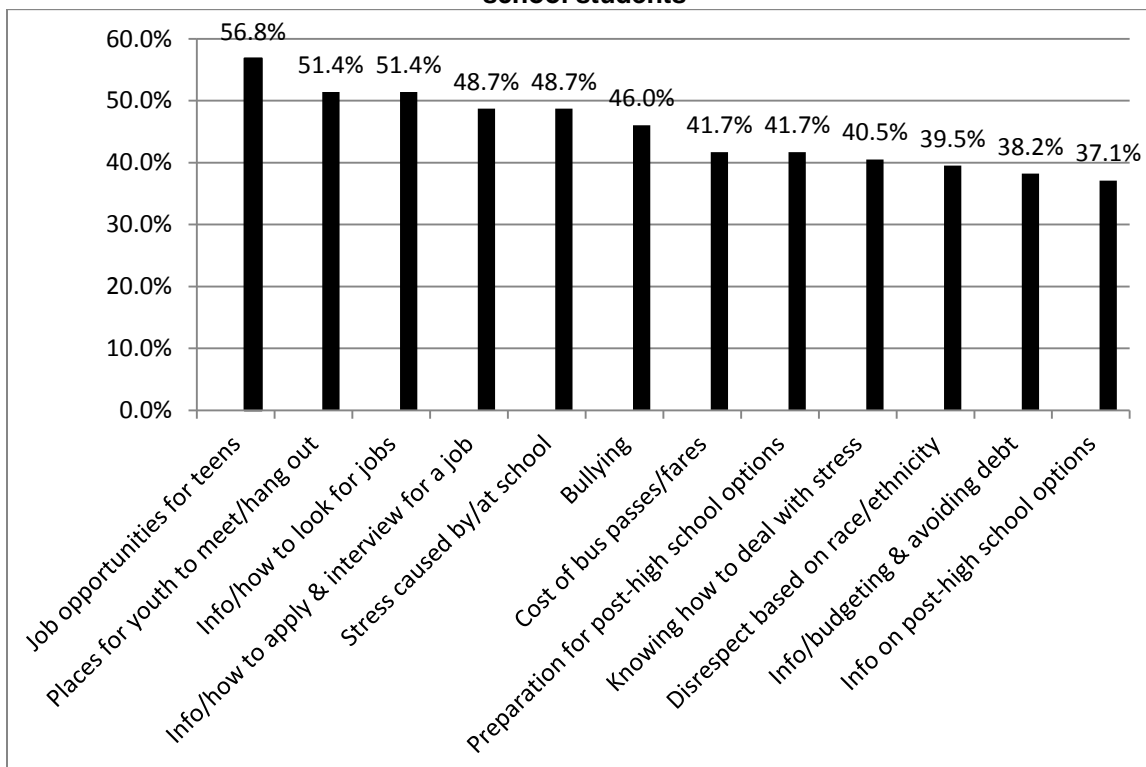
**Figure TLS-1. Most frequently mentioned issues needing “lots more attention”: Targeted sample of Latino students and random sample of Latino students**



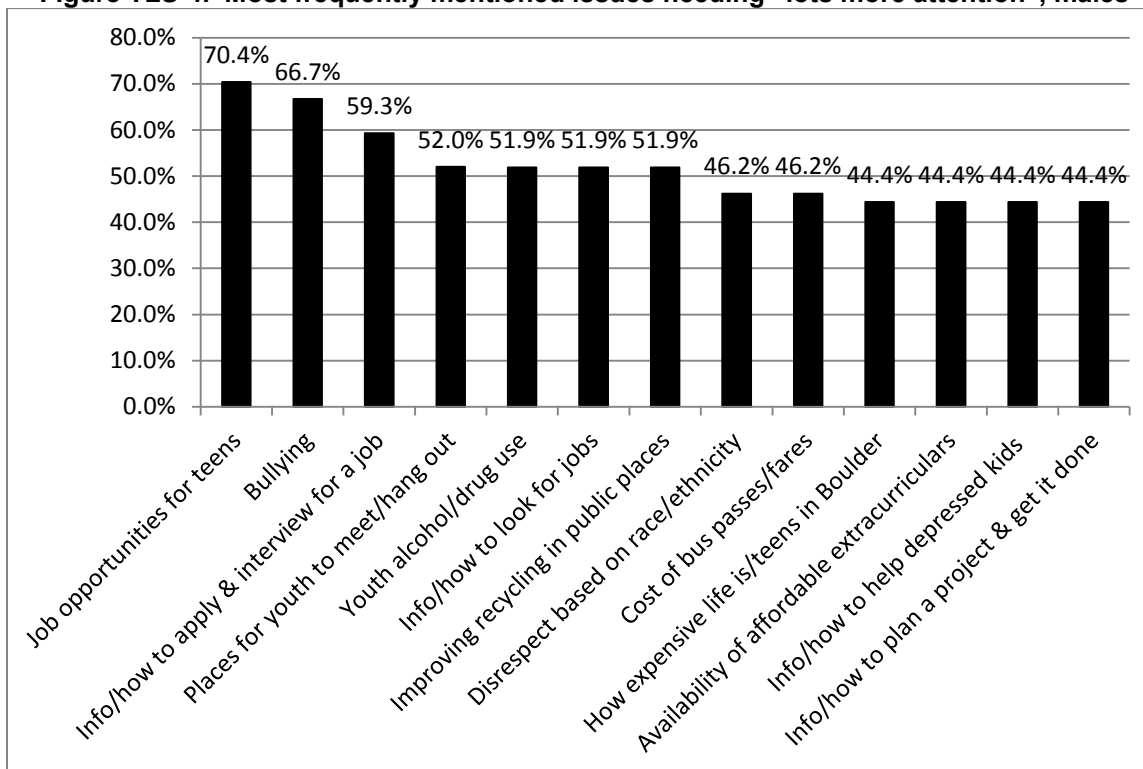
**Figure TLS-2. Most frequently mentioned issues needing “lots more attention”, middle school students**



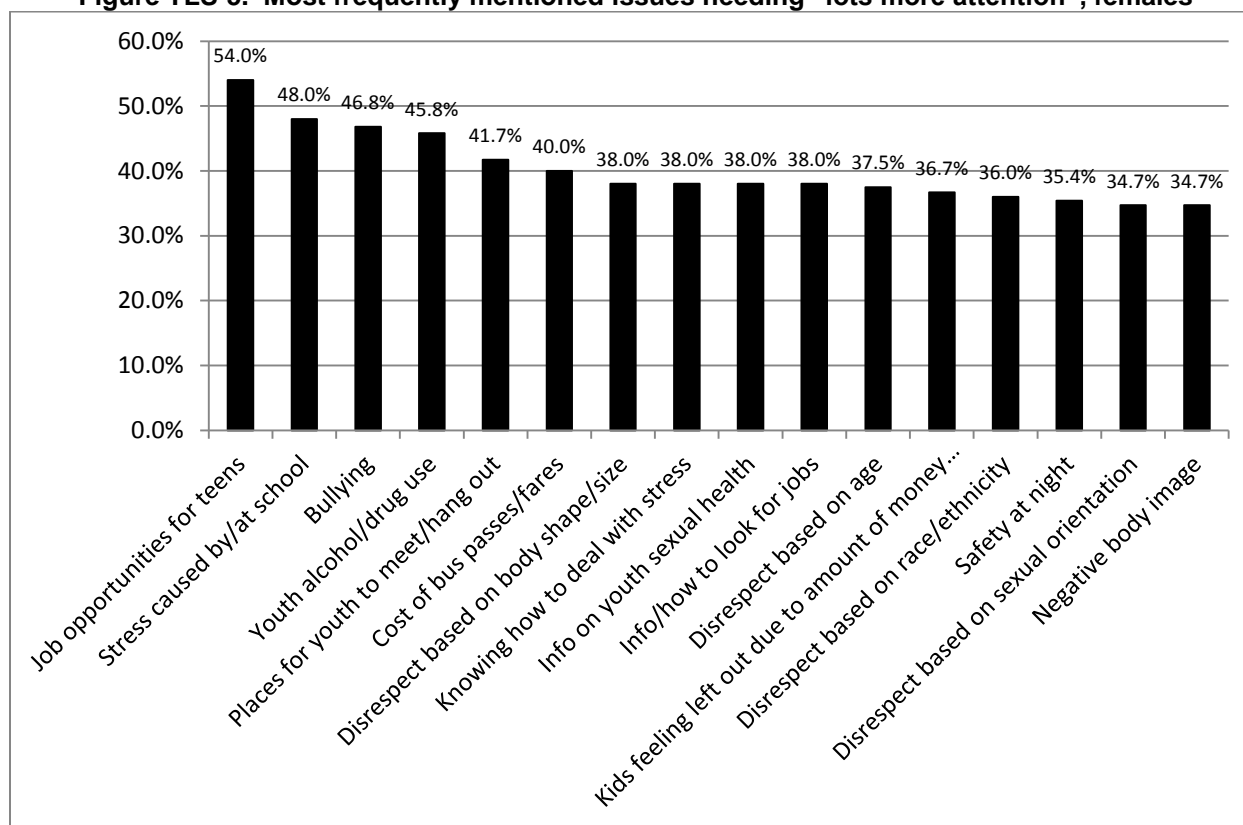
**Figure TLS-3. Most frequently mentioned issues needing “lots more attention”, high school students**



**Figure TLS-4. Most frequently mentioned issues needing “lots more attention”, males**



**Figure TLS-5. Most frequently mentioned issues needing “lots more attention”, females**

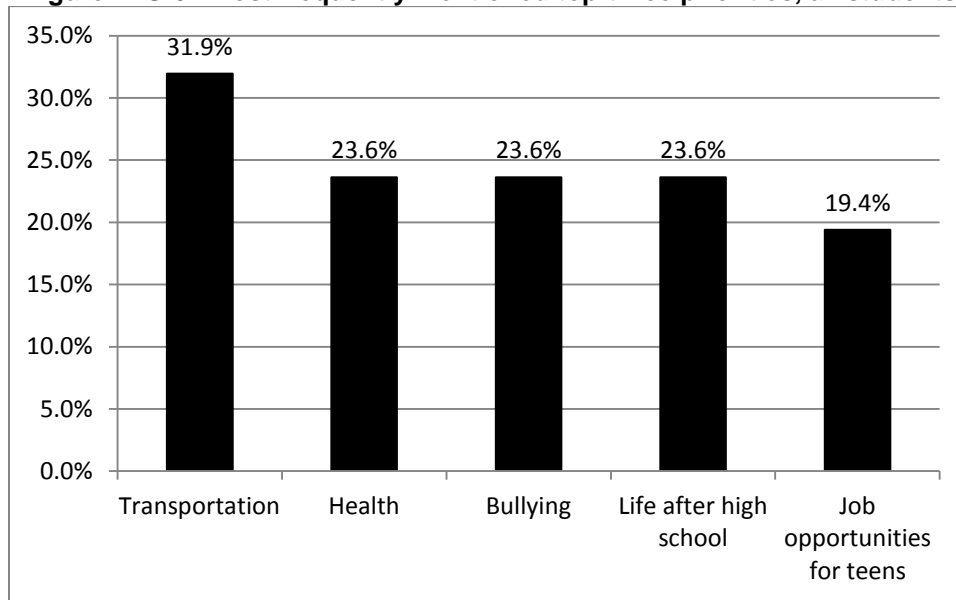


**Table TLS-1. Other youth needs/issues that need more attention (most frequent responses)**

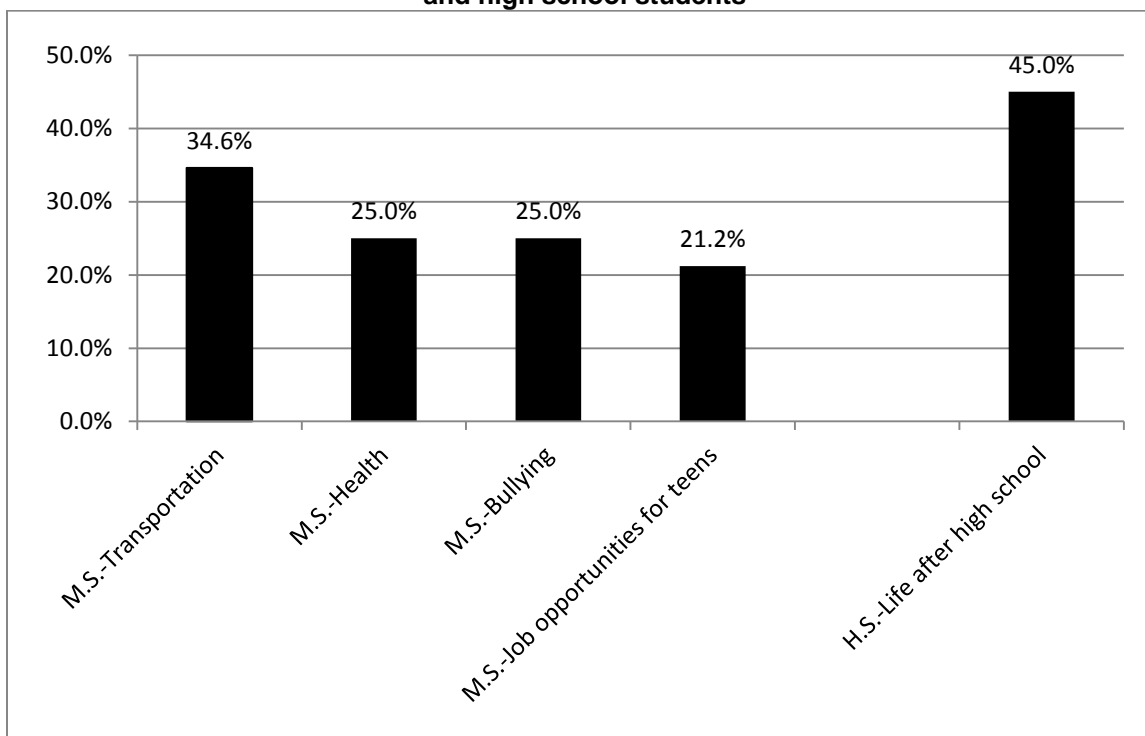
What did we miss? (31 responded)	%
Help with school	16.1%
Teen alcohol/drug use	9.7%
Better food in school cafeteria	6.5%
Teen employment	6.5%
Homelessness	6.5%
Health issues, how to take care of yourself	6.5%
Making friends	6.5%



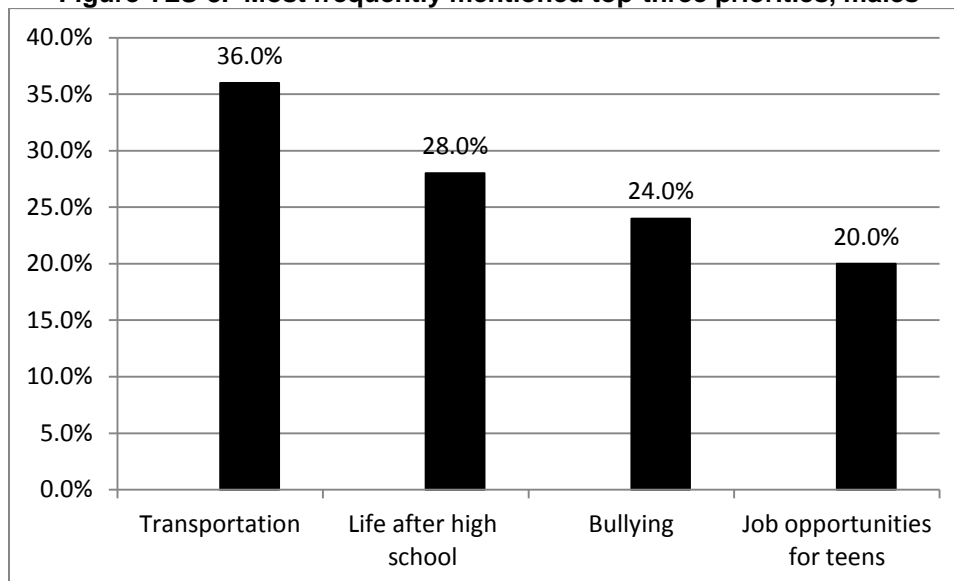
**Figure TLS-6. Most frequently mentioned top-three priorities, all students**



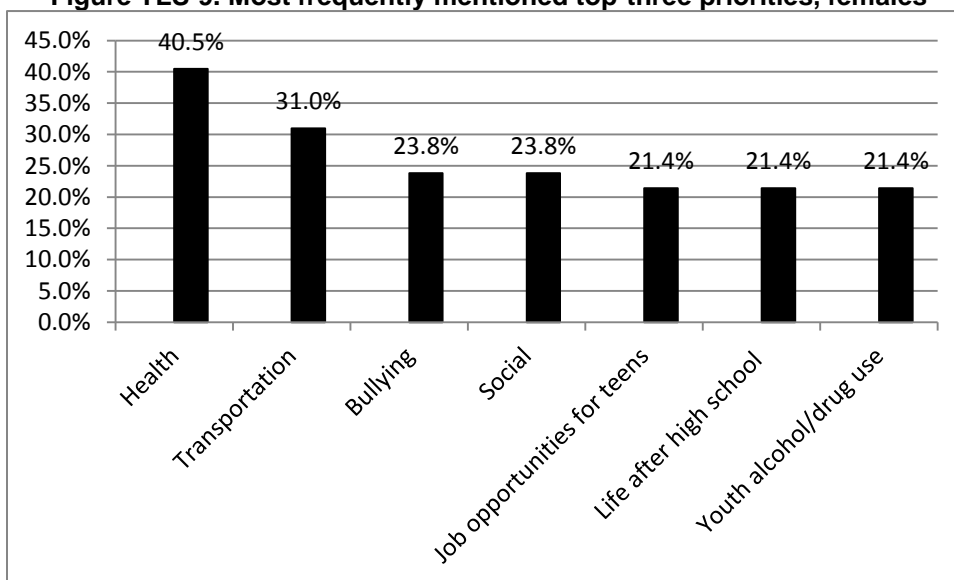
**Figure TLS-7. Most frequently mentioned top-three priorities, middle school and high school students**



**Figure TLS-8. Most frequently mentioned top-three priorities, males**

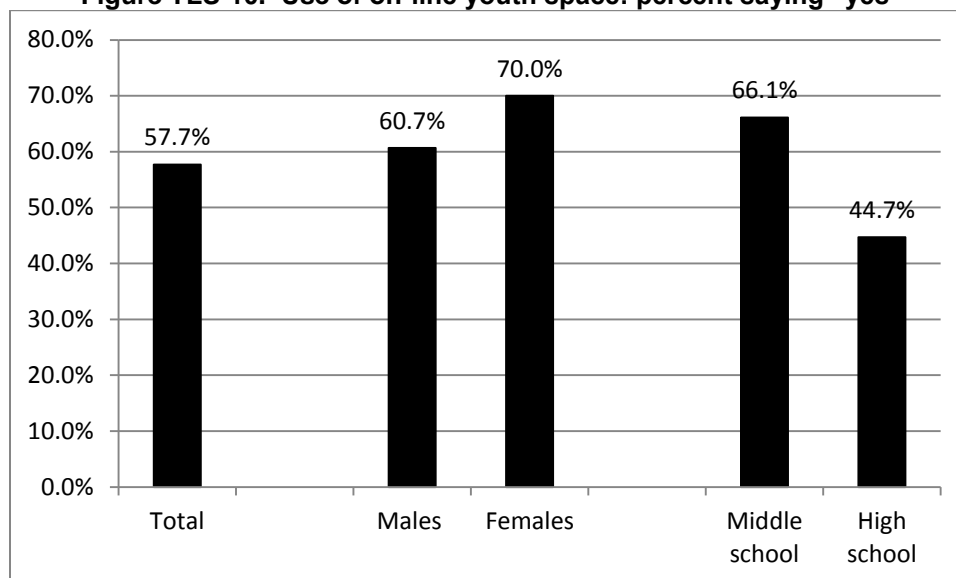


**Figure TLS-9. Most frequently mentioned top-three priorities, females**



**Table TLS-2. Most frequent suggestions for addressing top-three priorities**

Top three priority	Suggestions
Transportation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Reduce cost of bus fare to school or bus fare in general</li> <li>▪ Provide school bus passes</li> </ul>
Life after high school	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ More information on college</li> <li>▪ Help studying for college</li> </ul>
Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Learn about your body</li> <li>▪ Club or group</li> <li>▪ Workshops</li> </ul>
Bullying	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Talk to teens</li> <li>▪ Talk to bully</li> <li>▪ Teach how not to bully, how to prevent bullying</li> <li>▪ Club or group</li> </ul>
Job opportunities for teens	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ More information</li> <li>▪ Club or group</li> </ul>

**Figure TLS-10. Use of on-line youth space: percent saying “yes”**

**Table TLS-3. What do you like best about being a youth in Boulder?**

(63 responded)	%
Lots of activities, opportunities	19.0%
The community, the people, friendly	19.0%
Good schools, education, my school	17.5%
Support, help that is available	11.1%
Outdoors activities, active lifestyle, sports	6.3%
Natural beauty	4.8%
Opportunities to help others	4.8%
Friends, social life	4.8%
Eco-conscious	3.2%
Safety and freedom/independence	1.6%
Things are accessible (biking, walking, bus)	1.6%

## Appendix Tables

### Random sample

**Table RS-A-1. Percentage rating issue as needing “lots more attention” by school level\***

	Middle school	High school	Total
Cost of movie tickets	13.9%	21.9%	19.2%
Availability of affordable extracurricular activities	19.7%	19.6%	18.9%
Number/variety of night life opportunities	17.1%	29.0%	24.0%
Number youth-oriented shopping opportunities	13.4%	8.1%	10.3%
Opportunities to learn about people in Boulder from different cultures	14.9%	14.6%	15.2%
Places for youth to meet/hang out	17.0%	20.4%	19.3%
Safety at night	15.6%	7.8%	11.3%
How expensive life is/teens in Boulder	18.0%	28.5%	23.9%
Youth alcohol/drug use	25.7%	25.1%	25.9%
Bullying	27.2%	12.4%	18.4%
Youth feeling disrespected by adults (non-family)	9.2%	15.4%	12.0%
Disrespect based on age	9.6%	14.6%	12.2%
Disrespect based on race/ethnicity	14.3%	13.1%	13.1%
Disrespect based on body shape/size	20.4%	20.0%	19.4%
Disrespect based on sexual orientation	19.2%	15.3%	17.1%
Disrespect based on gender	7.8%	10.6%	9.1%
Disrespect-lack of money	15.9%	12.0%	13.3%
Resources to deal with conflicts with peers/adults	12.2%	9.5%	10.6%
Negative interactions/HS students & CU students	3.4%	3.3%	3.6%
HS students partying at CU/The Hill	10.2%	9.5%	10.3%
Kids feeling left out due to amount of money they have	11.7%	12.4%	12.0%
Negative body image	19.0%	21.0%	20.2%
Stressed caused by/at school	35.7%	45.1%	41.2%
Stress caused by life outside school	16.6%	21.0%	19.0%
Knowing how to deal with stress	26.8%	27.9%	27.9%
Youth feeling depressed/suicidal	18.8%	24.1%	22.6%
Info/how to help depressed kids	23.8%	24.9%	25.1%
Info on youth sexual health	15.7%	9.2%	10.1%
Info/accessing youth sexual health services	10.0%	8.1%	9.2%
Info/volunteering, internships	30.9%	42.2%	37.5%
Job opportunities for teens	47.1%	61.6%	55.9%
Info/how to look for jobs	40.8%	44.2%	42.9%
Info/how to apply & interview for a job	42.0%	43.4%	43.0%
Opportunities/places to display art work	13.2%	9.1%	8.7%
Opportunities to perform	15.4%	10.8%	12.8%
Community-based music/art/dance classes	12.6%	14.5%	13.5%
Education/environmental issues	16.0%	15.0%	15.3%
Improving recycling in public places	19.7%	22.3%	21.5%
Cost of bus passes/fares	13.5%	20.4%	17.5%
Bus routes & schedules	13.0%	11.9%	12.6%
Safety on RTD buses	9.6%	4.7%	7.3%
Safety walking to/from RTD bus stops	11.6%	4.7%	7.9%
Inadequate parking at schools	13.5%	36.4%	26.9%
Info on post-high school options	13.5%	16.4%	15.1%
Preparation for post-high school options	14.0%	21.0%	18.0%
Info/budgeting & avoiding debt	25.0%	31.8%	28.8%
Info/time management	20.6%	23.1%	21.9%
Info/how to plan a project & get it done	24.0%	17.6%	20.5%

\* The top quarter of percentages needing “lots more attention” are shaded.

**Table RS-A-2. Percentage rating issue as needing “no attention” by school level\***

	Middle school	High school	Total
Cost of movie tickets	29.3%	23.7%	26.0%
Availability of affordable extracurricular activities	34.5%	28.9%	33.7%
Number/variety of night life opportunities	23.6%	28.3%	26.0%
Number youth-oriented shopping opportunities	42.3%	58.2%	51.5%
Opportunities to learn about people in Boulder from different cultures	38.1%	40.9%	38.8%
Places for youth to meet/hang out	39.0%	44.1%	41.8%
Safety at night	32.3%	57.5%	46.4%
How expensive life is/teens in Boulder	16.0%	22.6%	19.4%
Youth alcohol/drug use	18.4%	21.5%	19.8%
Bullying	29.6%	46.0%	38.5%
Youth feeling disrespected by adults (non-family)	52.2%	45.4%	45.8%
Disrespect based on age	50.3%	46.4%	48.4%
Disrespect based on race/ethnicity	40.9%	45.8%	43.5%
Disrespect based on body shape/size	34.0%	34.2%	33.8%
Disrespect based on sexual orientation	37.9%	49.3%	43.4%
Disrespect based on gender	58.3%	60.4%	59.0%
Disrespect-lack of money	46.8%	44.9%	44.8%
Resources to deal with conflicts with peers/adults	36.6%	50.0%	43.8%
Negative interactions/HS students & CU students	22.7%	66.9%	47.3%
HS students partying at CU/The Hill	18.0%	44.7%	32.4%
Kids feeling left out due to amount of money they have	33.2%	37.1%	34.8%
Negative body image	25.9%	28.6%	26.7%
Stressed caused by/at school	11.2%	17.4%	13.6%
Stress caused by life outside school	32.7%	33.7%	32.3%
Knowing how to deal with stress	30.2%	29.3%	29.3%
Youth feeling depressed/suicidal	28.5%	26.3%	27.2%
Info/how to help depressed kids	22.8%	25.3%	23.8%
Info on youth sexual health	21.4%	51.8%	47.7%
Info/accessing youth sexual health services	36.3%	49.3%	42.7%
Info/volunteering, internships	12.3%	12.7%	12.6%
Job opportunities for teens	7.3%	8.3%	7.6%
Info/how to look for jobs	11.7%	13.0%	12.0%
Info/how to apply & interview for a job	9.8%	13.9%	11.7%
Opportunities/places to display art work	5.1%	40.9%	38.6%
Opportunities to perform	40.9%	43.3%	41.9%
Community-based music/art/dance classes	40.1%	41.1%	40.6%
Education/environmental issues	41.7%	46.4%	43.9%
Improving recycling in public places	38.9%	41.6%	40.1%
Cost of bus passes/fares	41.1%	35.6%	37.8%
Bus routes & schedules	40.9%	50.9%	46.5%
Safety on RTD buses	45.7%	69.6%	58.9%
Safety walking to/from RTD bus stops	44.9%	70.3%	59.1%
Inadequate parking at schools	27.1%	25.5%	25.7%
Info on post-high school options	14.0%	37.1%	26.9%
Preparation for post-high school options	13.0%	34.4%	25.1%
Info/budgeting & avoiding debt	15.4%	23.4%	20.0%
Info/time management	26.0%	33.7%	29.9%
Info/how to plan a project & get it done	33.7%	41.0%	37.4%

\* The top quarter of percentages needing “no attention” are shaded.

**Table RS-A-3. Issues most frequently indicated as one of top three priorities by school level**

	Middle school (197 responded)	High school (268 responded)
Job opportunities for teens	19.3%	29.5%
Youth alcohol/drug use	18.3%	13.8%
Bullying	15.7%	5.2%
Stress caused by or at school	14.7%	22.8%
Availability of affordable extracurricular activities	11.7%	10.4%
Social	8.6%	6.0%
Work/Service	7.6%	7.5%
How expensive life for teenagers is in Boulder	6.6%	9.7%
Information on how to look for a job	4.6%	6.0%
Information on how to apply and interview for a job	4.6%	6.0%
Information on volunteering or internships	4.6%	6.0%

**Table RS-A-4. Issues most frequently indicated as one of top three priorities by gender**

	Males (204 responded)	Females (254 responded)
Job opportunities for teens	22.1%	28.3%
Youth alcohol/drug use	15.7%	15.4%
Bullying	8.8%	10.6%
Stress caused by or at school	17.6%	21.3%
Availability of affordable extracurricular activities	15.2%	7.9%
Social	9.8%	4.7%
Work/Service	7.4%	7.1%
How expensive life for teenagers is in Boulder	9.3%	7.5%
Information on how to look for a job	3.9%	6.7%
Information on how to apply and interview for a job	5.9%	4.7%
Information on volunteering or internships	4.4%	6.3%

**Targeted Latino sample****Table TLS-A-1. Percentage rating issue as needing “lots more attention” by school level\***

	Middle school**	High school**	Total
Cost of movie tickets	23.2%	18.9%	21.5%
Availability of affordable extracurricular activities	29.1%	19.4%	25.3%
Number/variety of night life opportunities	25.9%	18.2%	23.1%
Number youth-oriented shopping opportunities	24.1%	15.8%	20.7%
Opportunities to learn about people in Boulder from different cultures	27.3%	13.9%	22.0%
Places for youth to meet/hang out	39.3%	51.4%	44.0%
Safety at night	40.7%	23.7%	33.7%
How expensive life is/teens in Boulder	33.3%	32.4%	33.0%
Youth alcohol/drug use	50.9%	31.6%	43.0%
Bullying	58.2%	46.0%	55.3%
Youth feeling disrespected by adults (non-family)	41.8%	27.0%	35.9%
Disrespect based on age	30.0%	32.4%	31.0%
Disrespect based on race/ethnicity	35.7%	39.5%	37.2%
Disrespect based on body shape/size	34.6%	34.2%	34.4%
Disrespect based on sexual orientation	37.5%	24.3%	32.3%
Disrespect based on gender	32.7%	29.7%	31.5%
Disrespect-lack of money	34.6%	30.6%	33.0%
Resources to deal with conflicts with peers/adults	17.9%	18.9%	18.3%
Negative interactions/HS students & CU students	16.7%	8.1%	13.2%
HS students partying at CU/The Hill	19.6%	24.3%	21.5%
Kids feeling left out due to amount of money they have	32.1%	33.3%	32.6%
Negative body image	33.9%	24.3%	30.1%
Stressed caused by/at school	39.3%	48.7%	43.0%
Stress caused by life outside school	25.0%	26.3%	25.5%
Knowing how to deal with stress	32.1%	40.5%	35.5%
Youth feeling depressed/suicidal	32.1%	34.2%	33.0%
Info/how to help depressed kids	37.5%	44.7%	40.4%
Info on youth sexual health	33.9%	30.6%	32.6%
Info/accessing youth sexual health services	21.5%	27.8%	23.9%
Info/volunteering, internships	21.4%	26.3%	23.4%
Job opportunities for teens	55.4%	56.8%	55.9%
Info/how to look for jobs	37.5%	51.4%	43.0%
Info/how to apply & interview for a job	39.3%	48.7%	43.0%
Opportunities/places to display art work	15.8%	11.4%	14.1%
Opportunities to perform	21.4%	28.6%	24.2%
Community-based music/art/dance classes	25.0%	33.3%	28.3%
Education/environmental issues	19.0%	22.2%	20.2%
Improving recycling in public places	36.2%	26.5%	32.6%
Cost of bus passes/fares	38.6%	41.7%	39.8%
Bus routes & schedules	36.8%	25.0%	32.6%
Safety on RTD buses	35.1%	20.6%	29.7%
Safety walking to/from RTD bus stops	36.8%	14.3%	28.3%
Inadequate parking at schools	21.1%	16.7%	19.4%
Info on post-high school options	17.2%	37.1%	24.7%
Preparation for post-high school options	19.6%	41.7%	28.3%
Info/budgeting & avoiding debt	12.5%	38.2%	22.2%
Info/time management	14.0%	32.4%	20.9%
Info/how to plan a project & get it done	22.8%	29.4%	25.3%

\* The top quarter of percentages needing “lots more attention” are shaded.

**Table TLS-A-2. Percentage rating issue as needing “no attention” by school level\***

	Middle school**	High school**	Total
Cost of movie tickets	33.9%	24.3%	30.1%
Availability of affordable extracurricular activities	18.2%	0.0%	11.0%
Number/variety of night life opportunities	13.8%	6.1%	11.0%
Number youth-oriented shopping opportunities	25.9%	13.2%	20.7%
Opportunities to learn about people in Boulder from different cultures	20.0%	11.1%	16.5%
Places for youth to meet/hang out	23.2%	8.6%	17.6%
Safety at night	22.2%	18.4%	20.7%
How expensive life is/teens in Boulder	19.6%	8.1%	14.8%
Youth alcohol/drug use	21.8%	10.5%	17.2%
Bullying	20.0%	13.5%	17.4%
Youth feeling disrespected by adults (non-family)	23.6%	16.2%	20.7%
Disrespect based on age	24.0%	13.5%	19.5%
Disrespect based on race/ethnicity	21.4%	5.3%	14.9%
Disrespect based on body shape/size	16.4%	10.5%	14.0%
Disrespect based on sexual orientation	25.0%	10.8%	19.4%
Disrespect based on gender	34.6%	21.6%	29.4%
Disrespect-lack of money	21.8%	22.2%	22.0%
Resources to deal with conflicts with peers/adults	28.6%	13.5%	22.6%
Negative interactions/HS students & CU students	29.6%	16.2%	24.2%
HS students partying at CU/The Hill	32.1%	24.3%	29.0%
Kids feeling left out due to amount of money they have	21.4%	25.0%	22.8%
Negative body image	25.0%	10.8%	19.4%
Stressed caused by/at school	12.5%	5.4%	9.7%
Stress caused by life outside school	26.8%	7.9%	19.2%
Knowing how to deal with stress	25.0%	8.1%	18.3%
Youth feeling depressed/suicidal	25.0%	13.2%	20.2%
Info/how to help depressed kids	23.2%	13.2%	19.2%
Info on youth sexual health	26.8%	8.3%	19.6%
Info/accessing youth sexual health services	26.9%	13.9%	21.6%
Info/volunteering, internships	23.2%	10.5%	18.1%
Job opportunities for teens	1.8%	5.4%	3.2%
Info/how to look for jobs	21.4%	10.8%	17.2%
Info/how to apply & interview for a job	14.3%	5.4%	10.8%
Opportunities/places to display art work	33.3%	20.0%	28.3%
Opportunities to perform	28.6%	17.1%	24.2%
Community-based music/art/dance classes	14.3%	13.9%	14.1%
Education/environmental issues	32.8%	22.2%	28.7%
Improving recycling in public places	13.8%	11.8%	13.0%
Cost of bus passes/fares	14.0%	13.9%	14.0%
Bus routes & schedules	26.3%	18.8%	23.6%
Safety on RTD buses	29.8%	29.4%	29.7%
Safety walking to/from RTD bus stops	26.3%	34.3%	29.4%
Inadequate parking at schools	31.6%	19.4%	26.9%
Info on post-high school options	17.2%	5.7%	12.9%
Preparation for post-high school options	21.4%	8.3%	16.3%
Info/budgeting & avoiding debt	26.8%	2.9%	17.8%
Info/time management	29.8%	5.9%	20.9%
Info/how to plan a project & get it done	28.1%	5.9%	19.8%

\* The top quarter of percentages needing “lots more attention” are shaded.